

GEOFFREY COSSINS

Geoffrey Cossins has made significant contributions to engineering and engineering heritage. His research on the history of engineering in Queensland, particularly water engineering in South-East Queensland, has promoted engineering heritage and aided identification and documentation of heritage works.

Born in England, Geoff graduated BE (Civil) from the University of Queensland in 1944. His engineering career has concentrated on investigation, design and operation of major water infrastructure with the Stanley River Works Board, the Coordinator-General of Public Works, the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission and the Brisbane City Council.

In 1950 EM (Mick) Shepherd and Geoff Cossins started investigations in the Coordinator-General's Department of the future water needs of Brisbane. Through this, he met A L Wadley, a former secretary of the Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, author of a history of Brisbane's water supplies to 1928. Joining the Brisbane City Council in 1955 Geoff started updating this history in his own time. 1966 saw the first Cossins historical paper on Brisbane's water supply, and in 1986 he researched and compiled a major contribution to J R Cole's *Shaping a City: Greater Brisbane 1925-1985*, published by William Brooks Queensland.

In 1999, Queensland Division of EA published *Eminent Queensland Engineers Volume 2* edited by Geoff and in 2000 his *The Gold Creek Dam Story*. These followed more than 50 papers and articles on the operation of flood mitigation dams and the economics and expansion of the Brisbane water supply system. His papers carry such titles as *One hundred years of Brisbane's water supply*, *Hip Hip Hydraulics*, and *Hydrology without Tears*. These titles reflect Cossins' lifelong association with literature and the theatre, from which Queensland Division members have reaped stylish entertainment and authoritative information for over half a century. Two of his papers were published in the Institution's Journal by invitation.

On the Institution's Queensland Division Committee in the 1970s, Geoff had responsibility for heritage matters. Since his retirement from the Brisbane City Council in 1988 Geoff Cossins has continued to be active in Institution heritage matters, including presentation in 2008 of two papers as part of the Division's Heritage Panel technical program.

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